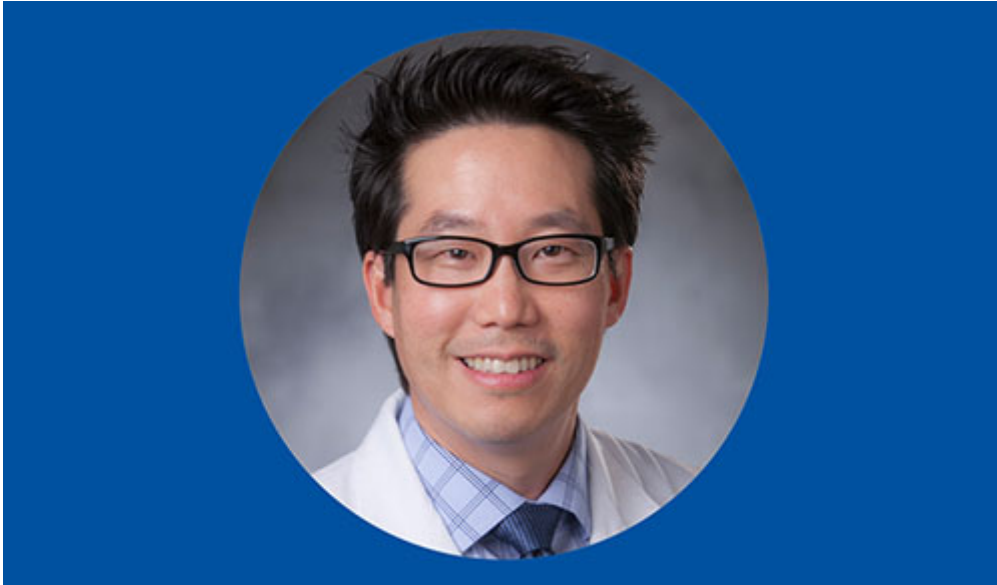


# Interventional radiologist leads one-of-a-kind effort to save patient's life

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With an outcome of death likely unless something dramatic was done, **Charles Kim**, MD, and his colleagues recently found support and success in pulling off a series of surgeries never before done at Duke.

Kim, Duke University Hospital's (DUH) division chief of interventional radiology, was sent a dire case. A patient with long-standing blockage of portal veins developed a new clot. However, conventional treatments were not an option.

The only way to save the patient's life was with four concurrent, complex procedures in coordination with others from hepatology, transplant and general surgery. After seven hours, the team saved their patient and they were discharged five days later.

"There's a lot of improvisation in our job as we enter scenarios never before tackled," Kim said. "Because this combination of complex procedures has not been previously attempted or reported in the medical literature, it wasn't clear if our effort had any chance for success, but thanks to the fortitude of the entire team and constant encouragement, we kept pushing forward despite the uncertainty."

Kim said everyone involved, from nurses to fellows and residents, helped with optimistic words and suggestions. No idea was too small to not be considered with a life on the line.

**Trenton Tallent**, RN, nurse manager for operations in vascular interventional radiology, marveled at how it all came together. He said the teamwork and effort by Kim was "special" but also representative of what it means to focus on patient care at Duke.

"This person undoubtedly would have died had Dr. Kim not acted," Tallent said. "It was really special the way everyone came together to look at the case closely and save her life."